

VZCZCXYZ0001
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHRB #0220 0361855
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 051855Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5778
INFO RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE 4309
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE 0640
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 3055
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 0300
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 3218
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE 5652
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE 3413
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 4526
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 0210
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE 9197
RUEHCL/AMCONSUL CASABLANCA IMMEDIATE 2628
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0663
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 1027

UNCLAS RABAT 000220

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/MAG, DRL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [CVIS](#) [KFEM](#) [MO](#)
SUBJECT: THE NATIONALITY CODE IS AMENDED

¶1. This cable is sensitive but unclassified; please protect accordingly.

¶2. (SBU) In an action hailed by concerned Moroccans as a step towards democracy and equality, parliament passed an amendment to the Nationality Code allowing women married to non-Moroccan men to pass Moroccan citizenship to their children on February 1. The Moroccan women's marriages must have been contracted in accordance with the 2004 Family Law, article 146. The mother must declare to the Ministry of Justice that the child will have Moroccan citizenship. Children whose fathers are from countries where dual nationality is not permitted will be able to choose their nationality when they reach the age of 18. The king has reportedly signed the law, which only needs publication to enter into force.

¶3. (SBU) The 1958 Nationality Code had made it difficult for children of mixed nationalities to receive state grants for university and fully participate in Moroccan society as their residency permits had to be renewed on a regular basis. Some are children of fathers from other Arab countries; others are from a growing number of Moroccans married in Europe. Moroccan citizenship is difficult to obtain. Press reports indicated that only 1,646 non-Moroccans had received citizenship since 1965. Currently, the Ministry of Justice is reviewing 500 new applications for citizenship.

¶4. (SBU) Comment: In July 2005, King Mohammed VI, during his Throne Day speech, made it clear he was in favor of Moroccan citizenship passing to children through their mothers as well as their fathers. Moroccan press reports have given the king full credit for this initiative and applaud his efforts. The passage of this bill is a major reform and is one for which parliamentarians and members of civil society organizations have been lobbying for several years. Some Moroccans hail the bill as a major step forward in gender equality. End Comment.

Visit Embassy Rabat's Classified Website;
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/rabat>

Riley